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LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I would like to submit to the attention of the Security Council for its upcoming periodic 30-day review on the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia Mission on the border between the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, the annexed article entitled "Serbian Helicopter Flights Are One More Sign of Bosnia's Woes", which appeared in today's New York Times.

It has long been acknowledged that the military elements of the Belgrade regime have not been abiding by that regime's August declaration on the border closure. However, according to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations report covering the period from 3 to 6 February 1995, "UNMO airfield monitors in Surcin, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), were refused access to the radar monitors for the past two days, a facility which is monitoring overflights near the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia border". As stated by United Nations spokesmen here in New York, this refusal took place at the same time that the violating helicopter flights took place, giving credence to the view held by many independent and relevant international factors that the civilian authorities of the Belgrade regime have also wilfully taken part in violations of the international border.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Serbian Helicopter Flights Are One More Sign of Bosnia's Woes

By ROGER COHEN
Special to The New York Times

SPLIT, Croatia, Feb. 5 — More than 15 Serbian helicopters, apparently on a resupply mission, crossed from Serbia into Bosnia and Herzegovina just before dusk on Friday, a report from Dutch United Nations military observers says.

The mission of the helicopters suggested once again that the Serb-dominated Yugoslav Army is still heavily involved in the Bosnian war, that President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia is less than sincere in saying he has cut off the Bosnian Serbs, and that NATO's enforcement of a no-flight zone over Bosnia is patchy.

The military observers, based near the eastern Muslim enclave of Srebrenica, saw the helicopters flying westward from Serbia at the same time that other United Nations observers at Serbian airfields near the border were barred from their usual access to those airfields and to the radar screens operating there, a United Nations spokesman, Paul Risley, said today. The observers said they did not know the final destination of the helicopters.

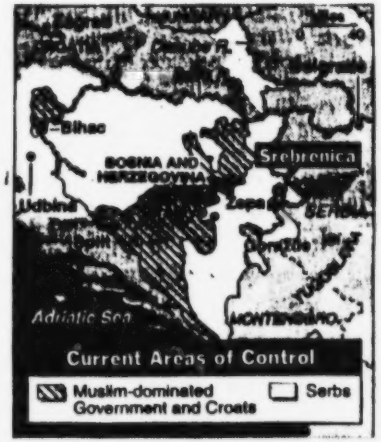
Similar helicopter flights from Serbia were noted by the United Nations last year, but never before have so many aircraft been seen together flying in formation. The sorties are consistent with other evidence of continuing involvement of Serbia in the war.

The Udbina airfield was later bombed by NATO, but Serbian aircraft resumed using it today, United Nations officials said.

The Yugoslav Army formally withdrew from Bosnia in the summer of 1992, but it continues to maintain contact with Gen. Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander and a former Yugoslav Army officer.

Many members of the army are known to be unhappy about President Milosevic's decision last August to impose a trade blockade on the Bosnian Serbs because they refused to accept a proposed international peace settlement that would oblige them to give up one-third of the land they hold in Bosnia. President Milosevic was rewarded with an easing of a Western economic embargo on Serbia.

The helicopter mission on Friday came as there were signs that the Serbs of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia — whose desire to live in a single country is at the root of the wars in the former Yugoslavia — were closing ranks in the face of threats of a wider Balkan war in the spring.



The New York Times

U.N. observers, based near Srebrenica, reported seeing 15 Serbian helicopters cross into Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, has said he would aid the Croatian Serbs if they were attacked by the Croatian Army. Such an offensive is considered possible after March 31, the deadline set last month by President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia for 12,000 United Nations troops to start withdrawing from Croatia.

President Milosevic has also recently warned that President Tudjman's decision, which will lead to the removal of the United Nations buffer between the Serbs and Croats, could lead to a wider war.

It is with the aim of presenting a united front to the Serbs that the United States has recently intensified efforts to consolidate a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia. But mutual suspicion and differing strategic aims have undermined the federation since it was formed, and it seems unlikely that a cohesive fighting force will emerge this year.

The American attempt to bolster the federation, and thus achieve a balance of power in Bosnia, follows a failed diplomatic attempt to persuade the Serbs to resume talks on a plan offering 51 percent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat federation and 49 percent to the Serbs.

The New York Times, 6 February 1995